



March 20, 2021

SUMMARY OF BILL: Expands eligibility for participation in the individualized education account program (IEAP) to include children with dyslexia who also meet the additional criteria.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

Assumptions:

- Tennessee Code Annotated § 49-10-1402 establishes the current eligibility requirements:
 - A child must have any of the specified disabilities;
 - Have an active individualized education program with one of the specified disabilities listed as their primary or secondary disability in effect at the time the Department of Education (DOE) receives the request for participation in the IEAP; and
 - Either be previously enrolled in a Tennessee public school for one full year, be enrolling in a Tennessee school for the first time, or received an individualized education account in the previous school year.
- The proposed language will expand the definition of eligible student to include children with dyslexia.
- The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act requires public schools to provide special education and related services to eligible students. To be covered, a child's school performance must be "adversely affected" by a disability in one the identified categories.
- Dyslexia is not a federal disability category, but falls within the list of conditions under the Specific Learning Disability (SLD) category.
- The DOE considers dyslexia to be a condition when determining eligibility for a student and SLD could be the eligibility category in which the student qualifies under to receive special education services.
- Adding dyslexia to the list of disability categories will not change current policies and procedures when determining whether a child is eligible for an IEAP.
- Dyslexia is currently a condition which may qualify a student to be eligible for an IEAP; thus, schools will be able to comply with the proposed legislation within existing resources. Any fiscal impact is estimated to be not significant.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Krista Lee Carsner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

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